

OKLAHOMA POULTRY

2002 POULTRY REVIEW

Burt Bartlett

Farm chickens (excluding broilers) in Oklahoma on December 1, 2002 climbed to 5.59 million birds, up 4 percent from last year and the highest inventory since 1997. Hens and pullets of laying age, at nearly 4.2 million head, were up 8 percent from 2001 to a new record high. Pullets not yet of laying age decreased 15 percent from one year ago. The number of other chickens (mostly roosters) increased 30 percent from last year. The average value per bird was up 80 cents from the previous year. Total inventory value of all chickens, excluding broilers, was \$27.95 million, up 23 percent.

Total egg production for the year ending November 30, 2002, was 951 million eggs, 3 percent above last year. The annual average number of laying hens was 4.17 million head with an average number of eggs per 100 layers of 228, down 1 percent from a year ago. The price per dozen eggs decreased 1.1 cents from last year to 83.2 cents per dozen. The total value of eggs produced in 2002 totaled \$65.94 million, up 1 percent from 2001.

The State's broiler production, concentrated mostly in the eastern part of the state, was a record-high 232.8 million birds, up 3 percent from 2001. The total liveweight pounds produced was a record-high 1.14 billion, 3 percent above last year's previous record-high production. The average price per pound for broilers, at 30 cents, was down 9 cents from a year ago to the lowest average price since 1987. The total value of broiler production decreased 21 percent to \$342 million, due largely to the decrease in the price of birds. Oklahoma was ranked number 11 in the nation in broiler production in 2002.